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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAL](#) [KWBG](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: JERUSALEM MEDIA REACTION (06/22): "NATIONAL INTERESTS  
DEMAND THAT PALESTINIAN DIVISION END ON JULY 7"

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Main Stories:  
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Al-Ayyam leads with and Al-Quds and Al-Hayat Al-Jadida front page news citing AFP and Wafa on the Israeli government's annual budget that has been provisionally approved (June 21) for 2009-2010 and will include \$250 million for the establishment of new settlement outposts in the West Bank, "despite the calls of President Obama to halt all settlement activities." \$4,000,000 dollars will be allocated for constructing a new neighborhood in Jerusalem area Ma'aleh Adumim settlement, whereas \$125 million will go for supporting "security expenses," according to coverage. An Israeli minister representing the Likud party noted during the Israeli cabinet meeting of June 21, that the "Jews have the right to live in a Jewish state and they have the right to continue the settlement activities in the West Bank areas."

Al-Hayat Al-Jaddia leads with and Al-Quds front pages wire reports citing Israeli papers that a "comprehensive and profound deal" is being negotiated between Hamas and Israel with U.S. and Arab blessings to, "end the sufferings of the people of Gaza." The arrangement is the main reason behind Israeli Defense Minister Barak's recent visit to Egypt, according to Israeli daily Haaretz. The deal, according to coverage, will support national reconciliation efforts between Fatah and Hamas, the release of captured Israeli soldier Shalit, and will establish a long term truce between Hamas and Israel.

Al-Quds' leads and all front pages cover wire reports about continued riots in Iran. Al-Quds runs separate front page coverage citing AFP about President Obama urging Iranian leaders on June 21 to put an end to all violent and oppression acts against the Iranian people and calling on the Iranian government to respect the freedom of expression.

Palestinian Authority President Abbas' visit to Saudi Arabia on June 21 got front page coverage on all front pages. Abbas met with King Abdullah and discussed recent developments in the Palestinian Territories and means to coordinate the position of the Arab countries in the next phase to support efforts towards achieving peace in the Middle East based on the establishment of a Palestinian state. Abbas also briefed King Abdullah on recent developments regarding national unity dialogue, according to coverage.

Al-Hayat Al-Jadida runs front page coverage on Fatah parliamentary block member Al-Ahmad noting on June 21 that Palestinian Authority President Abbas approved the release of a number of Hamas members detained in the PA detention centers in the coming few days. Al-Ahmad noted that more detainees will be released soon and pointed out that this step comes within efforts to support the national unity dialogue and end internal division.

All front pages report on the Jerusalem Municipality issuing 65 demolition orders on June 21 for houses and apartments in East Jerusalem, mainly Bayt-Hanina, Shu'fat and Silwan neighborhoods. The orders cite lack of appropriate construction permits, according to coverage.

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Weekend stories:

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Sunday June 21:

All front pages reported that, "Abbas and Assad stress commitment to  
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the Arab peace initiative and support Egyptian efforts for achieving Palestinian reconciliation and unity." Syrian and Palestinian Authority Presidents Bashar Al Asaad and Mahmoud Abbas conducted "in-depth" discussions in Damascus addressing Palestinian developments, Palestinian national dialogue, the position of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on the two-state solution, and results of discussions that President Abbas conducted in Washington, according to coverage. Following the meeting, PLO negotiator Saeb Erekat, told press that, "in view of the speeches by President Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, the picture has become clear that there is a need for closer coordination among Arabs regarding many issues."

"Misha'l postpones his speech from Damascus," according to Al Ayyam's and Al Hayat Al Jadida's front pages. A statement issued by the Hamas media office in Damascus announcing the postponement of the speech did not give any reasons for the postponement reporting notes. Meanwhile, media sources linked the postponement with the Palestinian-Syrian talks that took place in Damascus on June 20.

An Ayyam front page headline reported, "A senior Hamas leader: "We informed Carter of our acceptance of a state within the 1967 borders without recognizing Israel" "Hamas: Carter provided a written initiative that goes beyond the Quartet's conditions." The story followed on a June 20 Al Ayyam report that Hamas confirmed that Carter provided Hamas with a written initiative that goes beyond the conditions of the Quartet and offers direct dialogue with the American administration. Palestinian sources indicated that Carter's initiative consists of two main elements, the first: announcement by Hamas of its acceptance of the Arab peace initiative, and second: announcement by Hamas of the ultimate goal of the Road Map, namely, the two-state solution." The sources added that Carter confirmed that Hamas's acceptance of these two elements will be the key to dialogue with the American administration and the lifting of the political and financial isolation of the movement, according to coverage.

Saturday June 20:

Al Quds' front page reported on, "New settlement projects in Jerusalem." A new Israeli document reveals that the Israeli Land Administration will announce over the next two years the construction of 5,800 new housing units in Jerusalem, according to reporting. The Israeli weekly newspaper 'Yirushalim', which

revealed the news, stated that the most prominent tenders are: the tender in Har Homa settlement in East Jerusalem, with plans to construct 1200 settlement units there, the tender for establishing a new neighbourhood in Ramot including 900 housing units, as well as the establishing of a fancy neighbourhood consisting of 268 units in Lifta to replace the existing abandoned houses there.

All front pages ran extensive coverage of Egyptian President Mubarak's recent editorial in the Wall Street Journal.

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BLOCK QUOTES:  
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1) Rimonda Tawil opines in Al-Quds independent daily under the title, "Netanyahu's speech requires that we change our speech"(06/22): "In his speech, Netanyahu presented everything he believes in and he ruined all peace initiatives and burned all reconciliation bridges. We as Palestinians must now revisit our policies and positions... It is time to start a new strategy that is based on a clearer analysis of our interests, objectives, priorities..., because if Israel continues to consider itself the

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most powerful country in the region and plans to dominate, then the whole region will be threatened by these[racist policies]."

2) Samih Shbayb opines in Al-Ayyam independent daily under the title, "Will July 7th be decisive?" (06/22): "It is likely that Hamas will hesitate to accept the Egyptian proposal on July 7 that aims at ending internal division, however, national interests require that all parties and factions consider this date as decisive, ... Egypt is seriously engaged in ending the division and all parties have to realize that this date has to be respected and that the Palestinian situation will not tolerate any more divisions or conflicts."

WALLES